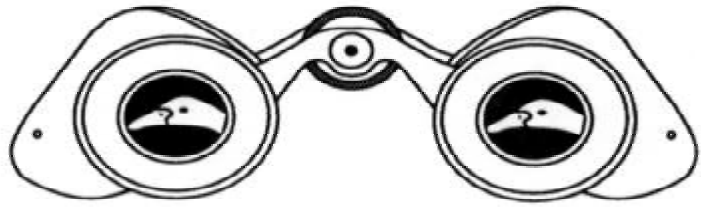


# through the biKNOXulars



Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

**March Meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 7:15 pm.** Dev Joslin will speak on "Birds of the Oak Ridge Reservation." He will discuss recent ORR breeding bird survey data in relation to bird species of conservation concern in the Tennessee Ridge and Valley. He will also provide information on new greenways and increased access to parts of the reservation and the status of the Three Bend Wildlife Refuge.

## March Field Trips

**Sat. March 4, 7:00 am**

**Oak Ridge Reservation and DOE's new Three Bend Wildlife Refuge.**

Leaders: Dev Joslin (482-7591) and Jim Evans of TWRA

Meet at Wal-Mart parking lot in Oak Ridge (on Illinois Ave). We will tour the back roads of the reservation, walking through prime areas for sparrows, woodland and wetland birds, and waterfowl. Tour will cover at least one of 3 peninsulas in the Three Bend Scenic Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. Bring water and a snack.

**Sat. March 18, 8:00 am**

**Fort Loudon area beaver ponds, openwater and tail waters.**

Leader: Wes James of TVA (988-2433)

Meet in the Tellico Canal Bathhouse/parking area adjacent to the canal that connects Tellico and Fort Loudon Reservoirs. This area is reached by taking the first exit after crossing the Fort Loudon Dam bridge. The exit says Tellico Village, Route 444. After taking this exit you go straight across the Tellico Parkway (Route 444) to the bathhouse and parking area. Same road that goes to the Tellico Canal boat ramp. There are two major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open-water areas of the reservoirs and tailwaters. There is also a lot of early succession "sparrow" habitat and open land. Expect to see several waterfowl and wading bird species, sparrows, possibly bald eagle and an early osprey, and numerous other passerines. We could finish up before lunch time.

## Wanted: Your Sightings

As many of you know, The Migrant, published by TOS, and North American Birds, published by ABA, rely on sightings submitted by birders for their seasonal sighting reports. These reports are invaluable aids for those researchers looking for trends in bird population dynamics. I encourage you all to submit your sightings for inclusion in these journals so that we can learn more about changes in distribution and population of bird species in our area and so that, through the conservationists who make use of this data, we can help the birds themselves.

The winter reporting season for The Migrant and North American Birds covers from 1 December through 29 February. Please bring your sightings to the March meeting or send them to Dean Edwards [kde@utk.edu](mailto:kde@utk.edu); 521 E Old A.J. Hwy, Jefferson City TN 37760. Include any bird sightings from our area that you feel are interesting, including unusual species, early or late arrivals and migrants, or high numbers of individuals. The information I need is what species was seen and when, where and by whom it was seen.

**The terrific door prize at last month's meeting was provided by Wild Birds Unlimited on Kingston Pike. Congratulations to Melissa Halpern!**

## CARA Passes Major Milestone: Time for Action!!

I think all Tennessee Birders have been following the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) over the past year. In early 1999, both houses of Congress introduced the bipartisan act, which contains major funding for state wildlife programs and related recreation and education. The House bill (H.R. 701) was approved by the House Resources Committee 37 - 12 on November 10, 1999. The companion Senate bill (S. 25) is the next step. This update will bring us all up to speed on what CARA entails, so that we can write informed letters persuading our leaders to back this important legislation. CARA may be the most important conservation legislation in our lifetimes; it is important that we keep up to date.

### Why is Title III Funding of CARA Needed in Tennessee?

Almost 90 percent of Tennessee's wildlife is nongame or rare, including most of the migrant and resident birds of concern to TOS members. However, due to lack of dedicated funding, they receive only about 2% of the agency's budget, and much of this is due to the generosity of Tennessee's sportsmen. Federal funds have previously not been equitably distributed by species. Since the beginning of Federal Aid in the U.S. in the 1930's, nationwide Federal funds have totaled: \$3.4 million per game species, \$42,000 per Endangered species, and \$11 per nongame species.

### What Are Some Proposed Title III Nongame Wildlife Projects in Tennessee?

TWRA proposes to continue and expand partnership programs to stretch dollars to their maximum, combining funds with those of other agencies, programs, and organizations to accomplish mutual goals.

- Land purchase, conservation easements, etc. While building up the resource, we would gradually and responsibly further expand a wide variety of other nongame projects.
- Form partnerships for conservation and management of greenways and other riparian habitats.
- Integrate shorebirds and wading bird management with waterfowl management.
- Research causes of declines of frogs & salamanders; take corrective actions before it is too late.
- Research status, distribution and threats to alligator snapping turtles.
- Expand law enforcement concerning illegal sales of herps and other wildlife.
- Form partnerships for installation of osprey and kestrel nest structures, and
- Complete & implement plans for management of song birds.

### Now is the Time for Action: Write your Representatives

H.R. 701 and S. 25 would provide dedicated and reliable funding and allow states to repeat the success stories of game species for other fish and wildlife. For these bills to pass, they need the support of every Tennessee Congressman and Senator. Some of our representatives need more encouragement: Senator Thompson and Congressmen Bryant, Hilleary, and Wamp are not currently co-sponsors. I would encourage all members to write and explain why this legislation is good for Tennessee, using examples from the above CARA update. Unless we make our voice heard, our message will be lost; there are already several private-rights groups who actively oppose CARA, and we need to show that many informed citizens are behind the legislation. Here are the addresses:

The Honorable Van Hilleary  
United States Representative  
114 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4204

The Honorable Zach Wamp  
United States Representative  
423 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4203

The Honorable Fred Thompson  
United States Senator  
523 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ed Bryant  
United States Representative  
408 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4207

**For More Information About CARA**, contact:  
Teaming with Wildlife [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)  
Thomas Congressional <http://thomas.loc.gov/>  
Committee On Resource <http://www.house.gov/resources/ocs/>

Information provided by Bob Hatcher  
with edits and additions by Roger Tankersley (rdtanker@utk.edu)

## Calling all kids!

American Bird Conservancy announces a **children's poster competition** to promote the second "**National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day**". Cats Indoors Day will coincide with **International Migratory Bird Day** on **May 13, 2000**, and aims to educate cat owners that cats, birds and other wildlife benefit when cats are kept indoors. The competition is sponsored by Wild Bird Centers of America which is providing prizes including a bird friendly school yard for the winner's school.

Competition entries are due *May 1* and prizes will be awarded to winners in the following age categories: Ages 6 - 7; 8 - 9; 10 - 12. Each poster must have the *name, age, address and phone number* of the entrant on the back, as well as the *name, address and phone number of the school*. Artwork should show a happy, safe, indoor cat. Winners will be announced by May 12 on American Bird Conservancy's Web site ([www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)) where the winning poster will also be featured. The prizes awarded by Wild Bird Centers of America, Inc. include a **\$250 gift certificate** which will go to the overall winner and another **\$250 gift certificate to the school, nature center, or other institution** with which the child is associated. Wild Bird Centers will also assist the school or institution in establishing a schoolyard habitat for birds. The gift certificates can be redeemed either at [www.wildbirdcenter.com](http://www.wildbirdcenter.com) or at any local Wild Bird Centers of America franchise store. Winners in the other age categories will each receive **R.T. Chickadee bird feeder and nest box kits, a bird guide, and an R.T. Chickadee plush toy**. The winner will also be publicized through a national press announcement. Artwork must be on heavy white paper no *larger than 18" x24"* and must be flexible. Posters should be mailed in a mailing tube and arrive no later than May 1 at: American Bird Conservancy, 1250 24th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20037. Entries cannot be returned.

American Bird Conservancy's Cats Indoors! campaign education materials are available through the America Bird Conservancy web site at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org). For more information call: Linda Winter, American Bird Conservancy, 202-778-9666.

Additional information on the poster competition and prizes can be obtained from Kim Hope, Wild Bird Centers, 301-229-9585. Web sites of interest: American Bird Conservancy: [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) Wild Bird Centers of America: [www.wildbirdcenter.com](http://www.wildbirdcenter.com)

## Gear Needed

The Birders' Exchange is a collaborative program by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Massachusetts and the American Birding Association in Colorado which collects and distributes birding equipment (binoculars, scopes, tripods, camera equipment, tape recorders, field guides, bird books, camping equipment) in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The work is being done in support of ornithological research and conservation work being done by schools, universities and governmental agencies in those countries. The Birders' Exchange is a clearing house for these donated materials. It has already helped more than 100 groups in 26 countries. New or USED equipment in good working condition is welcomed as are financial contributions in support of the program. A good pair of used binoculars or an old field guide is a priceless tool for a researcher with nothing but an inquiring mind and an eye for birds. The Birders's Exchange is partnered with 25 or more outstanding conservation groups and companies in support of this important research work.

Further information can be obtained, electrically, by contacting: Lina DiGregorio, Program Director, at [edcon@aba.org](mailto:edcon@aba.org) or by phoning her at 719-578-9703 (Mountain Time). Take a look your attic, basement or "bird room" and see how you can be of help.

# Bulletin Board

It's not summer yet, but you can surf anyway...

Cornell University in Ithaca, New York is home of the world's premier ornithology research program. And the nice thing about their program is that they make a wealth of information available...and in language we can understand...to us! Taking some time to explore their site will give you quite an education in the rich natural heritage we have in our common backyard birds...plus a few exotics.

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>

Birdzilla.com is a fairly new site that is being loaded with wonderful links and information. Check it out at:

<http://www.birdzilla.com/>

Birdwatch America hosts a bird lovers' site in addition to the industry trade site. You can find news and links at:

<http://www.birdwatchamerica.com/BackyardBirds.html>

## Upcoming Field Trips with KTOS

Each **Thursday in April** Tony Headrick will lead trips on Sharp's Ridge

**Saturday April 8**, Nell Moore will lead a field trip to Cove Lake State Park and vicinity.

**Saturday April 29** will be the public bird walk on Sharp's Ridge.

**Early May** will see second trip to the Oak Ridge Reservations led by Dev Joslin.

## PEENT! PEENT! PEENT!

Woodcock walks will be taking place at Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area on March 4th and March 11th. These walks are sponsored by Ijams Nature Center. Call 577-4717 ext 10 for more information and to register.



## Decals, Anyone?

These window decals (depicting a Blackburnian warbler and a Common Yellowthroat, for those who forgot what warblers look like over the winter) were created by TVA graphic artist Garry Pyle for Knox TOS. Now the debate begins--which design do you like better? Dan Mooney will have color decals at the next meeting for all to see, and we can discuss making enough to go around. Let's take this chance to colorfully publicize KTOS!!



\*\*\*If you ride with someone to a birding destination, please make sure you help pay for the gas - with the way gas prices are rising, this is especially important. I'm sure the driver will appreciate it! \*\*\*

TOS Home Page: <http://www.tnbirds.org>

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